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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 78% Light rain Sensex 81,118 | Nifty 24,718 | Gold 1,00,942 | Silver 1,06,455 | Dollar 86.12 | Euro 99.10 | GBP 116.45

CROWD SAFETY

As child rights body seeks data of children injured in stampede, activists say such data will help spread awareness to prevent such tragedies

PAGE 4

STING NOT

BBMP reaches out to 1,349 schools across city to talk to students, teachers about ways to clear out dengue mosquito breeding sites

PAGE 9

NGOs working with survivors of sexual violence under POCSO Act say many affected children from migrant families left without trauma support or counselling due to language barrier

ANYBODY HERE SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE OF TRAUMA?

Stigma forces families to switch off phones as they don't want to be found or identified

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Several minor survivors of sexual violence under the POCSO Act are unable to access counselling in Bengaluru due to language barriers, especially among migrant children from other states. NGOs working closely with survivors say many of these children, particularly those from Bengali-speaking families who have settled in the city, are left without trauma support as most available counsellors do not speak their native language.

Despite the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) being tasked with the responsibility to follow up on such cases and ensure proper psychological aid, families say counselling is rarely provided. BM spoke to multiple survivors and families who reported no follow-up from authorities and no access to counselling services, even after repeated visits to the CWC office.

The key issues highlighted were the language barrier and an apparent lack of seriousness in providing counselling support. Many families are left struggling as their children continue to suffer mentally and psychologically, with growing fears about the long-term impact on the victims' future.

In one such case, a nine-year-old girl who was raped has yet to receive any form of counselling. Her family, after failing to get support in Bengaluru, returned to West Bengal hoping she could be counselled in a language

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

"The Child Welfare Committee must ensure that victims are supported by people who can communicate with the children in a language they understand

— Former Bengaluru District CWC chairperson

Toxic flow

Lab tests show heavy presence of heavy metals in leachate from Chikkanagamangala waste plant

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Analysis of leachate sample from BBMP's Chikkanagamangala waste plant shows presence of heavy metals much above the discharge standards prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

According to the laboratory report provided by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the sample exceeds permissible limits for parameters such as lead, cadmium, zinc, arsenic, and chromium.

To prevent contamination of surface water sources and groundwater, the leachates must meet the discharge standards. According to the EPA, the amount of lead present in effluent should not exceed 0.1 mg/L. For zinc, the level prescribed is 5mg/l, for arsenic it is 0.2mg/l, chromium is 2mg/l, phenolic compound is 1mg/l, iron is 3mg/l, etc.

However, leachate sample of Chikkanagamangala waste plant has lead content of 4.2mg/l, 8.6mg/l of zinc, 1mg/l of arsenic, 3.7mg/l of chromium, 7.8mg/l of phenolic compound, and nearly 15mg/l of iron, to mention a few.

Parameters indicating organic pollutants were also found going through the roof.

While the chemical oxygen demand

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Easel does it

Aisle Network is organising a curated sip & paint evening, designed especially for like-minded singles looking to connect and spark meaningful conversations beyond the digital world. **Where: 1 Bar House Kitchen, Koramangala; When: June 14, 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm**

02 Sway to the rhythm

Taaruk Raina will be performing in his debut tour 'Lost and Found', taking the audience on a captivating journey through his music. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: June 14, 6 pm**

03 Timeless craft

Designed to spotlight emerging talent in the Indian classical dance space and rekindle a collective appreciation for India's rich artistic heritage, 'Nrithya Sangamam', a classical dance showcase is presenting an evening that blends tradition, talent, and timeless rhythm. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: June 14, 6 pm**

04 Memory lane

NGMA Bengaluru, in collaboration with Ananya Drishya, a city-based artists' collective led by SG Vasudev, is organising a special screening of talks by the late Girish Karnad, in loving remembrance of his life and legacy. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: June 14, 5 pm**

05 Sweet spot

This Father's Day, Magnolia Bakery is bringing its signature charm and creativity to a unique, hands-on cupcake decorating workshop for parents and their little ones. **Where: The Yard, Whitefield; When: June 15, 11 am to 1 pm**

Bangalore Mirror's report sparks renovation of Venkatappa Art Gallery

When media brings issues to light and public-private partnerships work with sincerity, remarkable transformations are possible, says Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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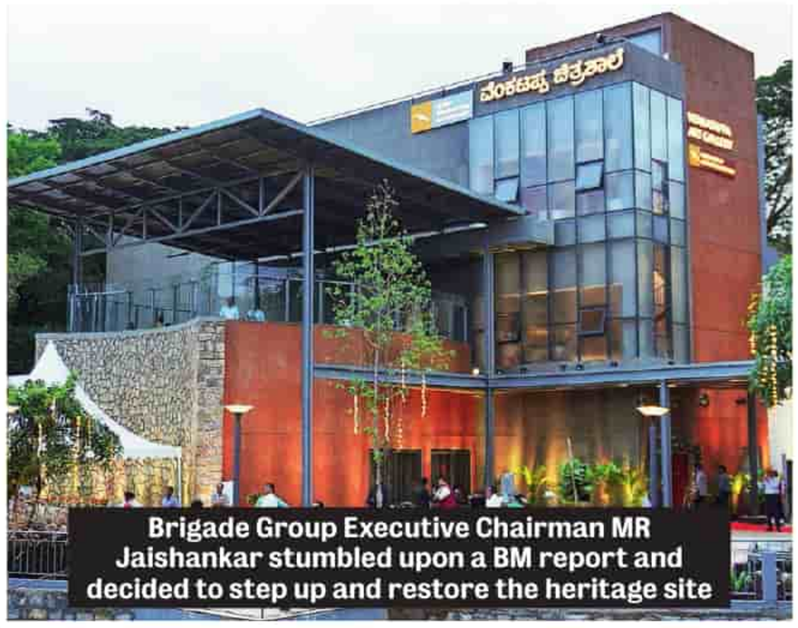
What started as a casual morning turned into a catalyst for cultural revival. Brigade Group Executive Chairman MR Jaishankar recalled sipping his coffee and flipping through the pages of Bangalore Mirror when he stumbled upon a report that spotlighted the dilapidated state of the iconic Venkatappa Art Gallery.

"The article moved me. That very moment, I decided we must step in to restore this heritage site," said Jaishankar, speaking at the gallery's reopening ceremony on Thursday. The Brigade Group soon took up the challenge, initiating the renovation of the age-old structure. Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, HK Patil, praised the collaboration between the government and private sector. "When media like Bangalore Mirror bring issues to light and public-private partnerships work with sincerity, remarkable transformations like this are possible. Venkatappa Art Gallery is a shining example," he noted. He added that public access to iconic structures like Vidhana Soudha is a step towards promoting heritage tourism, and plans are underway to open more such monuments to the public.

BangaloreMirror
Space for artists, cultural exchange. Venkatappa Art Gallery left in state of neglect; citizens, artists demand proper maintenance
STATE OF THE ART GALLERY
Citizens' forum raising voice on social media to save facility

Bangalore Mirror published a story about the deplorable condition of the gallery



Brigade Group Executive Chairman MR Jaishankar stumbled upon a BM report and decided to step up and restore the heritage site

The building, designed with plans for a five-storey structure, currently has only three stories

New beginnings

The Venkatappa Art Gallery, located on 3.11 acres of land in Cubbon Park, was initially founded by then-Chief Minister S Nijalingappa in 1967. The gallery was officially opened in 1975. The building, designed with plans for a five-story structure, currently has only three stories. The renovation is being done carefully to ensure that the original structure is not harmed.

Sole platform for artists

Karnataka has over 70 art schools, with thousands of students graduating each year in various art disciplines. Venkatappa Art Gallery remains the state's only government gallery for these artists to showcase their work. With the addition of mini-galleries, more artists will now have the opportunity to exhibit their creations.

'Thug Life' producers asked to respond

The Karnataka High Court issued a directive on June 13 requiring producers of Kamal Haasan's film 'Thug Life' to address an application from Kannada Sahitya Parishattu. The literary organisation sought to intervene in the producers' petition against the film's ban in the state.

The prohibition followed Haasan's contentious remarks about Kannada language at the film's audio launch event. Justice M Nagaprasanna stated "Kannada Sahitya Parishattu has filed an impleading application, counsel has made submissions as to why he becomes the necessary party. Ld counsel for petitioner seeks a weeks' time to file objections to the application and make submission qua the order passed earlier." Representing the applicant, Senior Advocate S Basavaraj argued that the producers' petition constituted an abuse of legal process. He emphasised that individuals creating controversies should not seek extraordinary constitutional remedies whilst disregarding other constitutional provisions.

The intervention application, submitted through Advocate Chintan Chinnappa, requests permission to present constitutional, cultural, and linguistic concerns arising from Haasan's statements, particularly regarding the protection of Kannada language and culture's dignity and heritage.

The court maintained its previous order regarding the film's non-release in Karnataka and scheduled the next hearing for June 20. The petition by Raajkamal Films International sought to prevent the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce from restricting the exhibition of 'Thug Life' in all languages across Karnataka.

The dispute originated from Haasan's assertion during the film's audio launch that Kannada language emerged from Tamil language. Subsequently, the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce decided to prevent the film's exhibition in the state.

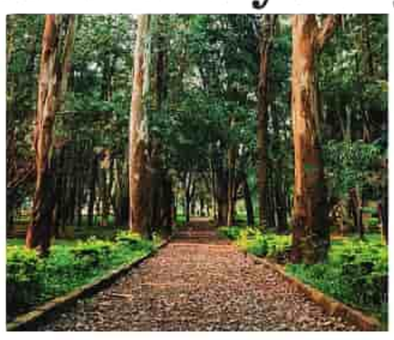
Although Haasan declared "no malice" during previous court proceedings, he declined to apologise for his statement. He proposed discussions with the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce whilst agreeing to postpone the film's release in Karnataka. The film, which premiered on June 5, remained unreleased in Karnataka. **— BMB**

Milann launches advanced fertility clinic for couples facing repeated IVF failures

Milann Fertility Hospital has launched its Advanced Fertility Clinic, designed as a second-chance centre for couples facing repeated IVF failures, unexplained infertility, and other complex reproductive challenges. "Many couples come to us after repeated failed treatments. They need a clear plan, not another cycle without answers," said Dr Meghana Nyapathi, Cluster Head - Reproductive Medicine, Milann Fertility Hospital. The clinic offers evaluations, genetic tests, second opinions, and support for physical and emotional wellbeing. Consultations are available on the fourth Thursday of every month. She said that the clinic follows a focused, science-based approach. Each couple undergoes a root-cause evaluation, followed by a tailored treatment plan. The care model includes medical interventions, lifestyle guidance, mental health support, nutrition, and alternative therapies. **— BMB**

QR code tags, eco-friendly tricycles at Lalbagh

In a move to combine technology with nature education, the Horticulture Department has installed QR codes on select tree species at Lalbagh Botanical Garden. These QR codes provide scientific and botanical information about the trees, allowing visitors to access detailed data simply by scanning them on their smartphones. The initiative was launched on Wednesday as part of World Environment Day celebrations, with Horticulture Department Secretary Shamya Iqbal inaugurating both the QR code installation and the introduction of battery-operated tricycles for visitors.



Speaking at the event, Iqbal highlighted the rich plant biodiversity at Lalbagh and said the QR code initiative would help the public learn more about tree names, families, and other botanical details. Initially, QR codes have been installed on 50 species, with plans to expand it to cover more trees in the future. As a first in Lalbagh, the department also unveiled eco-friendly battery-powered tricycles and bicycles for visitors. These new-age vehicles do not require pedalling and provide a comfortable and enjoyable ride. They will be on trial use for the next three months, informed Dr M Jagadish, Joint Director of the Horticulture Department.

He further noted that Lalbagh serves as a scientific platform for the study of rare plant collections from across India and abroad. With QR codes, visitors can access this information independently, without needing a guide.

Currently, Lalbagh—spread across 240 acres—has preserved 850 trees belonging to 40–45 plant species, many of which were planted during British rule and the tenure of renowned horticulturist Dr MH Marigowda. However, due to ageing, diseases, and storm damage, 320 trees have fallen so far. **— BMB**

Wheelie stunt lands youth in jail

Bengaluru Traffic Police arrested a youth for performing a dangerous wheelie stunt in Jayanagar. The incident occurred on Thursday around 5 pm, when the accused, riding a black two-wheeler, was spotted doing a wheelie near East End Circle in Jayanagar.

Acting on footage captured by the public and surveillance cameras, the Traffic Police identified and arrested the rider. A case has been registered under Indian Penal Code Section 279 (Rash driving or riding on a public way), Section 336 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others), and under Section 177 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with various provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Bengaluru Traffic Police have issued a stern warning that similar stunts will invite strict legal action. Authorities are closely monitoring social media platforms where such stunts are often posted and glorified. **–BMB**

MDMA worth Rs 10 cr seized

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of Bengaluru arrested a foreign national and seized over 5.3 kg of MDMA, a synthetic narcotic, worth approximately 10 crore on the international market.

The accused was apprehended near Hennur following a tip-off received by the CCB's Anti-Narcotics Wing. Officials found the banned substance concealed in his backpack. The suspect, who was in India on a business visa, is believed to be part of an international drug distribution network operating through dark web channels and social media.

According to the CCB, the operation was part of a larger crackdown on synthetic drug trafficking in the city. The suspect had been active since 2021, sourcing drugs from abroad and distributing them locally through an underground network targeting urban youth. Authorities have registered a case under the NDPS Act and are tracking additional leads. **–BMB**

Anti-drug rallies, plays across city

In observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26, the Bengaluru City Police will conduct a comprehensive awareness campaign aimed at educating the public, especially youth, about the dangers of drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking.

The initiative, to be held in collaboration with schools, colleges, NGOs, and various government bodies, will include awareness rallies, competitions, street plays, poster campaigns, and educational programs across the city.

According to the police, the primary objective is to sensitise students and the general public on the psychological, physical, and social consequences of drug addiction. The campaign will also encourage collective responsibility in building a drug-free society.

"The involvement of the youth is crucial to this mission. We want every student, teacher, and citizen to be aware of the risks and stand against substance abuse," said a senior police official. Events will begin ahead of June 26, culminating in a large-scale program on the day itself. **–BMB**

Campaign includes contests, posters, awareness drives

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KSCPCR demands action over parade child injuries

Panel asks police for child injury data from RCB celebration stampede to frame child safety measures and offer support to affected families

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Child rights activists and KSCPCR members welcomed the chairman's move to seek police data on injured minors

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) wrote a letter to the Director, Corps of Detectives, to provide data on the children injured in the stampede during the RCB's 2025 IPL victory celebration parade.

The KSCPCR Chairman, Naganna Gowda, in a letter dated June 9, has requested information from the Director of the Corps of Detectives regarding the number of children injured during the stampede. "The KSCPCR has received information from the public on the children injured in the stampede. Till now, no information on the number of children injured is available. I want you to provide the details," the letter read.

Child rights activists and KSCPCR members have welcomed the chairman's decision to write to the police seeking details on the minors affected in the incident. "The data on the injured children will help the KSCPCR to suggest measures to avoid such incidents in future. It will help the KSCPCR to meet the injured children and try to help them," said Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of KSCPCR.

Expressing a similar opinion, Shashidhar Kosambi, a member of KSCPCR from Bidar, said, "The information of injured children will facilitate the KSCPCR not only to create awareness among the children but also to recommend to the government to provide treatment and financial assistance if those children are in need."

Stating that the recent incident at the RCB victory celebration highlights the critical need for prioritising child safety at public events, Nagasimha G Rao, a Child Rights Advocate, said the loss of lives and injuries due to inadequate safety measures is a serious violation of child rights. "It's commendable that the KSCPCR has taken proactive steps by sending a letter to the government seeking details about the affected children. The experience of many children, who faced a chaotic situation and lost personal belongings, further underscores the trauma such events can cause. Article 26 of the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) emphasises the right to social security for children, which includes ensuring their safety and well-being in public spaces. To prevent such incidents in the future, the government needs to prioritise child safety in event planning, aligning with the National Policy for Children 2013, which recognises children as the nation's wealth," said Nagasimha G Rao.

> **"The data on the injured children will help the KSCPCR to suggest measures to avoid such incidents in future. It will help the KSCPCR to meet the injured children and try to help them**
> – Dr Thippeswamy KT, KSCPCR Member

He said the KSCPCR's initiative to organise a consultation with children and parents after receiving the government's response is a step in the right direction. "This consultation could help formulate strong, child-centric recommendations to the government, ensuring that the safety and rights of children are safeguarded in future events," he said.

BBMP cracks down on SWM cess fraud

In response to widespread misuse of solid waste management (SWM) fee waivers, the BBMP is set to form special teams to verify claims made by large apartments and commercial establishments that they handle their own waste disposal. A BBMP official said, "The teams will audit exempted properties and initiate strict action against violators, including imposing double penalties on those found submitting false declarations. Several apartment complexes, commercial buildings, star hotels, and restaurants across Bengaluru have allegedly exploited a BBMP provision by falsely claiming they scientifically process their own waste. This has allowed them to evade the mandatory SWM cess introduced for the 2025-26 fiscal year, which BBMP began collecting in April along with property tax."

The SWM cess is calculated based on a building's size and its daily waste output. While it is being charged to all residential properties, waivers were granted only to bulk waste generators — specifically, apartments with more than 100 units, buildings over 50,000 sq. ft., or those generating over 100 kg of waste per day. However, BBMP has discovered that several exempted properties continue to rely on the civic body's waste collection vehicles, despite claiming otherwise. This fraudulent practice has not only led to revenue losses but has also created operational challenges for the municipal authority.

Only ₹400 cr from SWM cess so far

From April to June 10, BBMP collected ₹2,740 crore in total property tax, out of which only ₹400 crore came from the SWM cess. Officials noted that the majority of this amount was contributed by individual residential property owners, as most commercial entities misused the self-disposal exemption. A senior BBMP official confirmed, "Owners who falsely claimed to manage waste independently will now face double penalties." — BMB

BWSSB's tanker scheme sees soaring demand

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)'s new 'Mobile Cauvery' scheme, launched on May 9 to curb the city's unregulated tanker water mafia, has seen an encouraging response in its very first month. Between May 9 and June 11, BWSSB sold a whopping 1.03 crore litres of Cauvery water through 1,532 authorised tankers, generating a revenue of ₹13.89 lakh. Despite a good spell of rain in May, the demand for reliable and affordable water remained high. Tankers charge ₹740 for 6,000 litres and ₹1,370 for 12,000 litres, and over 250 private tankers certified by BWSSB have been roped in for the service.

To make booking easy, a dedicated mobile app and website were launched. Additionally, 55 Cauvery Connect Centres across Bengaluru have been set up to refill tankers. However, users have reported technical glitches in the app and delays in delivery. Moreover, a lack of public awareness means many still depend on costly private tankers. The highest demand was seen in East Bengaluru, especially in the IT-BT corridor areas like KR Puram and Mahadevapura, which accounted for nearly 50% of total water sold. Demand is rising daily, and once existing contracts with private suppliers expire, BWSSB expects a further surge, said Chairman Ramaprasath Manohar. — BMB

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Drain danger
BTM Layout

29th Main in BTM Layout remains dangerously dug-up, making it nearly impassable. Residents face difficulty accessing homes, while open drains pose serious health risks.

Streetlight failure
Austin Town

Austin Anglo Indian Block remains in darkness as non-functional streetlights near Bettappa Garden leave the area dim and unsafe at night.

Pothole peril
Margondanahalli

Pothole-ridden Margondanahalli main road becomes a waterlogged trap during rains, turning daily commuting into a hazardous ordeal.

The world's hottest 10 summer trends – curated for the stylish Indian woman

Fashion is cyclical, and runways carrying Spring/Summer 2025 presentations seem to have brought fashion's past obsessions back to the fore. The less-is-more trend that had taken over in the past few seasons is on a 'quiet' decline, paving the way for maximalism again. Our collective obsession with pragmatism in clothes is evident and clear across the board, with designers showing an array of designs that make practicality look fashionable. Overall, messaging for the season is to keep things classic – because that's one trend that will keep coming back no matter what. On that note, here's a quick guide for those looking to shake things up with their wardrobe and personal style.

Happy sport

Athleisure continues to dominate, blending comfort with high fashion. Sleek performance fabrics, oversized silhouettes, and bodysuits (!) define the trend, with a focus on versatility. Looks that will seamlessly take us from gym to and blend style and functionality are in.

Free spirited

Fashion's obsession with nostalgia continues. For SS25, designers reimagined the 1960s bohemian aesthetic with a modern twist. Flowing silhouettes, crochet patterns, fringed details, lace and flare leg pants – everything that is emblematic of the 'flower power' era is back.

Checks, mate

The countryside staple gets a chic update. Out of barns and onto runways, plaid is set to become a must-have this season. Whether injected with practicality in Tommy Hilfiger's highly-utilitarian collection or oh-so-feminine at Chanel, the humble pattern is becoming fashionable.

Collared to perfection

Whether you believe in keeping things simple and classy or are simply out of ideas about what to wear, these elevated shirt dresses have you covered. The classic silhouette is perfect for working girls and their 9-to-5 and beyond needs.

Short surprise

Move aside bralettes and crop tops, navel-grazing and midriff-baring jackets are the new showstoppers in your wardrobe. From the knit iterations at the New York shows to the girly ones spotted in Milan, there's a short jacket for everyone. Suit your style.

Corp-core

Make your 9-to-5 routine interesting with rejigged corporate staples. Injected with some much-needed zhuzh, these looks are practical without being boring. SS25 will be the inflection point that normalises wearing shorts to work – as seen at Max Mara, Ahluwalia and Tod's, to name a few.

Bare anatomy

As a throwback to Angelina Jolie's leg-baring moment at the 2012 Oscars, the SS25 runway was inundated with dresses and skirts that shift the focus to a leg that's tastefully exposed. These are perfect for warm weather where unrestricted airflow will come as a welcome respite.

Wo(man) up!

Mad Men-era suits are back, except, this time, they're designed for women. Think extra-broad shoulders, double-breasted suits and ties (!) that mean business but are also very, very stylish. Gender bending is not just a trend but the beginning of a way of dressing.

Pretty pantless

This summer, soaring temperatures are not the only reason we're urging you to give up wearing pants. The trend that Miuccia Prada, creative director – Miu Miu, started just a couple of seasons ago has blown up and taken over. Shorts getting shorter and the underpants getting longer.

Boudoir & beyond

While it's standard to wear bralettes under blazers, this season, we're elevating our obsession with underwear by making them the hero of the look.

–Ashwini Arun Kumar, Femina

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Urban buyers flock to scenic farmhouse retreats

For those seeking peaceful moments in lush green surroundings, there is no better option than a farmhouse. This has led to a growing demand for farmhouses on the outskirts of cities.

Many urban residents are purchasing fertile farmland with farmhouses, cultivating commercial crops like tuberose, fruits, vegetables, and spices, earning income while enjoying tranquillity.

More people are looking to escape the concrete jungles of urban areas to breathe fresh air and relax in green, open spaces where weekends and holidays can be spent joyfully.

As a result, farmhouses with farmland near cities are witnessing increasing demand.

These properties, which are gaining recognition as ideal weekend and summer vacation spots, have become a new attraction for city dwellers. Besides being a serene getaway, such investments in green spaces promise substantial future returns.

Farmhouse appeal

Some farm lands offer the opportunity to grow commercial crops like tuberose and come with resort-like facilities. Developers are also building ready-to-move-in farmhouses on these lands, adding to their appeal.

The price of these farm lands is expected to double in a few years, prompting many people from Bangalore, Mysore, and other cities to invest in farmhouses with farmland to secure profitable returns. These properties are not just weekend retreats but also promising assets with multi-crore income potential in the future.

Four benefits from one investment

Farm lands located just 5 minutes from the Mysore-Bangalore highway are excellent for property investment, assuring investors that their capital will double. These lands are perfect for gardening and farming, and well-equipped resort facilities are available for those who purchase farm lands here. Realtors state that this opportunity offers fourfold benefits from a single investment.

Farmhouses can be constructed on farmland, or even sandalwood plantations, and combined with other farmhouses are possible. If buyers do not want a farmhouse, arrangements are made to plant tuberose shrubs instead. Farm lands along the Mysore-Bannur route have become profitable investments.

Infrastructure projects are developing in this area, and the new peripheral ring road coming up in Mysore has further improved connectivity. This road reduces travel time between Mysore and these farm lands to just 15 minutes.

Green haven

Cultivating profitable tuberose plants has become a new trend, allowing people to combine their love for greenery with good returns.

Earlier, growing tuberose was challenging due to security concerns. However, now, with proper security and managed maintenance provided by developers in safe areas, investing in farmland and farmhouses has become a secure and profitable venture for buyers.

–Prakash VL

HILIVING ESTATES
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Buyers pay for amenities, not livable space

Buying a flat in the city now means paying for far more common areas and far less carpet area than just five years ago. New data from property consultancy ANAROCK shows the average loading factor in Bengaluru's new apartment projects hit 41 % in Q1 2025, up from 35 % in 2022 and 30 % in 2019. Loading is the extra space, lobbies, lifts, stairwells, and clubhouses that developers add to a home's saleable area over and above the usable carpet area.

Bengaluru's 11-percentage-point jump is the steepest among India's top seven housing markets. Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) still tops the list with 43 %, but its rise since 2019 has been a comparatively smaller ten points. Chennai remains the least loaded major market at 36 %.

"Sixty per cent of the space buyers pay for across big cities is now livable; the rest is amenities," said Dr Prashant Thakur, Regional Director–Research & Advisory, ANAROCK Group. "While RERA forces builders to disclose carpet area, there is no legal cap on loading, and demand for lifestyle features is pushing it higher."

Why the spike?

Developers say Bengaluru's buyers no longer settle for basic gyms or gardens; they want

multiple lifts with higher capacities, expansive clubhouses, landscaped decks and co-working lounges. Each addition inflates the loading and the final ticket price, without enlarging the flats themselves.

Bengaluru has recorded the steepest rise in apartment loading among the top seven cities, jumping from 30% in 2019 to 35% in 2022, and further to 41% in Q1 2025. Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) continues to lead with the highest loading at 43%, up from 33% in 2019 and 39% in 2022.

The National Capital Region (NCR) also saw a notable increase from 31% to 41% over the same period. Pune followed with loading rising from 32% to 40%, while Hyderabad saw a jump from 30% to 38%. Kolkata's loading increased from 30% to 39%, and Chennai remained the lowest, moving up moderately from 30% to 36%. Across the seven cities, the average loading factor rose from 31 % in 2019 to 40 % in early 2025.

What it means for buyers

A typical 1,300 sq ft apartment advertised in Bengaluru today may offer only about 780 sq ft of carpet area. With no statutory ceiling on loading, ANAROCK urges state regulators to require builders to publish a clear breakup of how much buyers pay for private space versus shared amenities. "Higher loading can boost community life and resale value, but consumers must understand they are effectively paying more for less personal space," Dr Thakur added.

For now, experts say due diligence is the only guardrail: check carpet area disclosures, compare projects, and factor amenity wish-lists against the reality of square footage you can live in.

Kanakapura Road to see growth, infrastructure boom

In a significant push to enhance connectivity and decongest traffic in South Bengaluru, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, has sought the Centre's support for the upgradation of the Bengaluru–Kanakapura Highway (NH 209) to a six-lane corridor with service roads on either side.

The proposal also urges the early completion of the long-stalled 7-km stretch from Ravi Shankar Guruji's Ashram to the Kaggalipura Toll Gate.

The appeal was made during a meeting with the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways in New Delhi, where the DCM stressed the urgency of bolstering infrastructure to support the region's fast-paced growth.

"The development of industrial zones like Harohalli has led to an exponential increase in traffic. A six-lane highway is the need of the hour to ensure smooth movement of goods and people, enhance road safety, and support the ongoing industrial and residential expansion," the memorandum stated.

Currently, a four-lane road, NH 209, struggles to handle the ever-growing traffic volumes, especially with the rise in private vehicles, cargo movement, and daily commuter flow between Bengaluru and Kanakapura. Real estate stakeholders are hailing the announcement as a major infrastructure intervention that could redefine the realty potential of the entire Kanakapura Road corridor.

"Kanakapura Road is becoming the new go-to destination for plotted developments, premium villas, and eco-friendly communities. The six-lane expansion will reduce travel time to the city's core areas and make it easier for industries to move freight.

"This is a watershed moment for Kanakapura Road. Connectivity has always been the biggest selling point here, and a six-lane upgrade will only multiply the demand," said Ramesh Hegde, a local developer.

"Residential layouts, gated communities, and even weekend homes in areas like Kaggalipura, Harohalli, and Art of Living ashram zone will see more traction."

The DCM also called attention to the incomplete 7-km stretch from Ravi Shankar Ashram to Kaggalipura Toll, which has been a major traffic bottleneck. Although the land acquisition is complete, work has been stalled due to objections from the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The state has appealed to the Centre to help resolve legal hurdles and fast-track the project.

"The stalled stretch has been a major pain point," noted Rekha Murthy, a real estate consultant. "Commuters avoid it during peak hours, and that affects not just daily travel but also property visits. Once this bottleneck is removed, expect a sharp rise in site visits and bookings."

Realtors also pointed out that the proposed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), the nearing completion of Namma Metro's Green Line extension up to Anjanapura, and proposed logistics parks in Harohalli make the timing of this highway upgrade crucial.

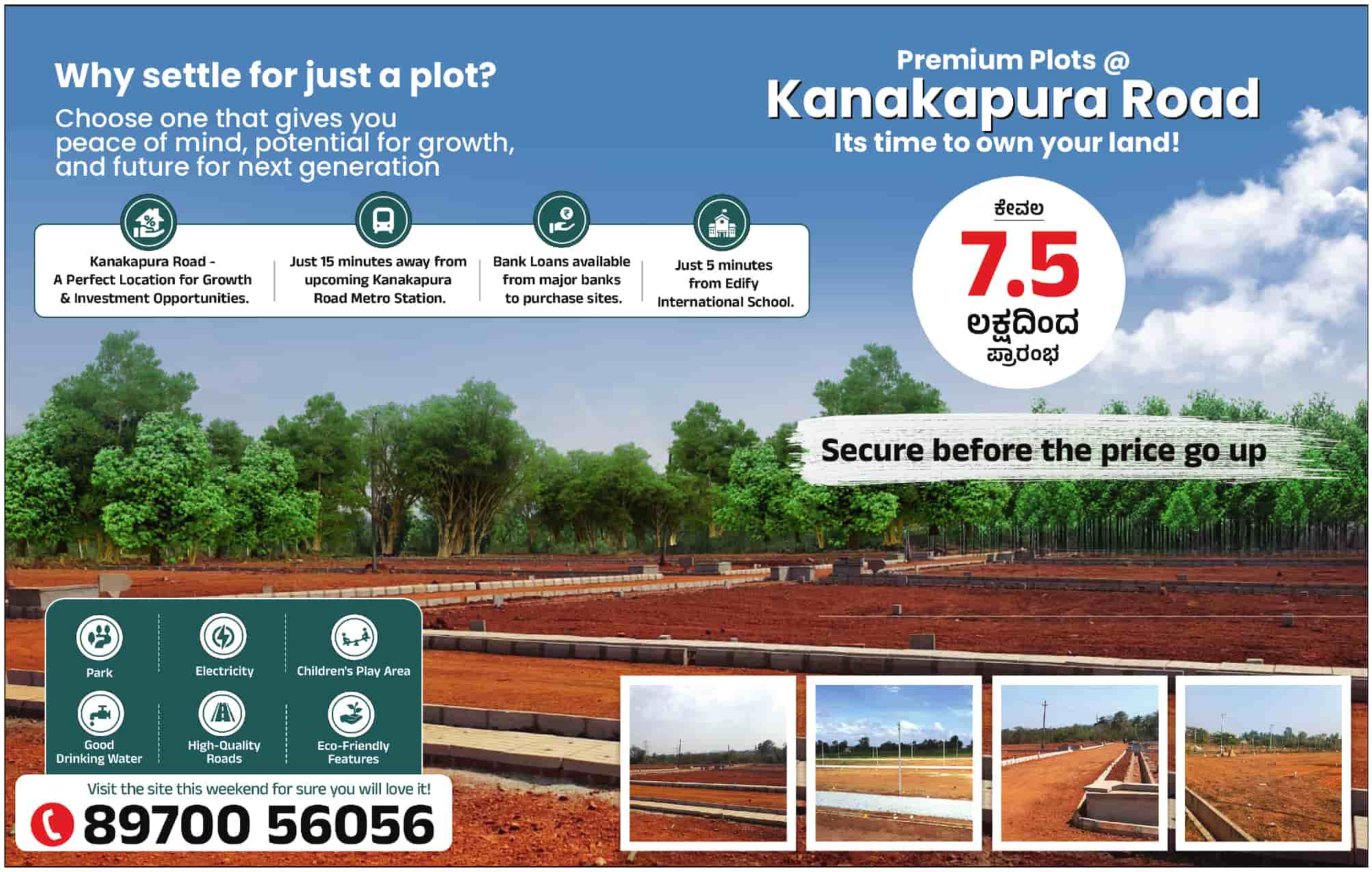
Vijay Kumar, CEO of a Bengaluru-based real estate firm, observed, "Kanakapura Road is becoming the new go-to destination for plotted developments, premium villas, and eco-friendly communities.

The six-lane expansion will reduce travel time to the city's core areas and make it easier for industries to move freight. This, in turn, will attract more tech parks, schools, and even retail giants to invest in the region."

Moreover, the tourism potential, thanks to its proximity to the Art of Living International Centre, Bannerghatta National Park, and Mekedatu, could also benefit from improved access, boosting weekend tourism and second-home investments.

If approved and executed on priority, the NH 209 upgrade could unlock vast untapped real estate potential along the southern arc of Bengaluru, positioning Kanakapura Road as a prime growth zone in the city's future expansion plans.

–Prakash VL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Crash horror

Air India crash probe focuses on engine, flaps

Investigators examine why Air India Dreamliner loses altitude moments after take-off, crashing in Ahmedabad and killing over 240; focus shifts to mechanical operations and maintenance records

The investigation into the Air India plane crash that killed more than 240 people is focusing on the engine, flaps and landing gear, a source said on Friday, as the aviation regulator ordered safety checks on the airline's entire Boeing-787 fleet.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 242 people on board bound for Gatwick Airport south of London began losing height moments after take-off over a residential area of the western city of Ahmedabad and erupted in a huge fireball as it hit buildings below, CCTV footage showed.

Only one passenger survived, and local media reported that as many as 24 people on the ground were also killed as the plane crashed into a medical college hostel during the lunch hour.

On Friday, a source said that Air India and the Indian government were looking at several aspects of the crash, including issues linked to its engine thrust, flaps, and why the landing gear remained open as the plane took off and then came down within moments.

The probe is also looking at whether Air India was at fault, including on maintenance issues, the source said.

A possible bird hit is not among the key areas of focus, the source said, adding that teams of anti-terrorism experts were part of the investigation process.

The government is considering whether it should ground the Boeing-787 fleet in the country during the probe, the source said. There was no immediate response to requests for comment on that from Air India, Boeing and the aviation ministry.

Air India has more than 30 Dreamliners that include the Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 versions. A source in Air India said there had been no communication so far from the government on the possible grounding.

Separately, India's aviation regulator ordered Air India to conduct additional maintenance actions on its Boeing 787-8/9 aircraft equipped with GEnx engines, including a "one-time check" of the take-off parameters before the departure of every flight from midnight of June 15.

The airline has also been instructed to introduce 'flight control inspection' checks to ensure control systems are working properly, in transit inspection, and to conduct power assurance checks, meant to verify the engine's ability to produce the required power, within two weeks.

One black box found

The aviation ministry said that investigators and rescue workers had recovered the digital flight data recorder, one of the two black boxes on the plane, from the rooftop of the building on which the jet crashed.

There was no information on the cockpit voice recorder, the other black box, which is also crucial to the crash probe.

Indian conglomerate Tata Group took control of the formerly state-owned Air India in 2022 and merged it with Vistara, a joint venture between the group and Singapore Airlines, last year. **Reuters**

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Publication of Tender Notice No. B-SG-Proj-SBC-N-KAVACH-R7 Dated : 02-06-2025

Item of work	Approx. Value
Field trials for KAVACH	Rs. 23,17,55,624.00

New Vendors (OEMs) - Design, development, supply, installation, trial and commissioning of On-board KAVACH equipment in locomotives and trackside KAVACH equipment at station/LC/IB/ABS locations along with associated works for KAVACH in KSR Bengaluru City - Baiyyappanahalli (Ex) & Yeshwantpur - Dodbelle (Ex) sections of South Western Railway. **(Reach-7)**

Publication of Tender Notice No. B-SG-Proj-SBC-N-KAVACH-R8 Dated : 02-06-2025

Item of work	Approx. Value
Field trials for KAVACH	Rs. 20,56,67,069.91

New Vendors (OEMs) - Design, development, supply, installation, trial and commissioning of On-board KAVACH equipment in locomotives and trackside KAVACH equipment at station/LC/IB/ABS locations along with associated works for KAVACH in Baiyyappanahalli (BYPL) - Whitefield Panel Cabin (WHPC) (Excluding) and Dodbele (DBL) - Kyatsandra (KDAG) (Excluding) sections of South Western Railway. **(Reach-8)**

Publication of Tender Notice No. B-SG-Proj-SBC-N-KAVACH-R9 Dated : 02-06-2025

Item of work	Approx. Value
Field trials for KAVACH	Rs. 18,25,91,253.84

New Vendors (OEMs) - Design, development, supply, installation, trial and commissioning of On-board KAVACH equipment in locomotives and trackside KAVACH equipment at station/LC/IB/ABS locations along with associated works for KAVACH in Whitefield Panel Cabin (WHPC) - Whitefield (WFD) & Kyatsandra (KDAG) - Tumakuru sections of South Western Railway. **(Reach-9)**

Last date for submission of bids above: **Tenders Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 09-07-2025**

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Is seat 11A the safest? Not really, say experts

The survival of a passenger who escaped through an exit door seconds after his Air India flight crashed, killing everyone else on board, has prompted speculation over whether his seat, 11A, is the safest.

Aviation experts say it is not so straightforward because aircraft vary widely in seat configurations, crashes are unique, and survival often hinges on a complex interplay of factors.

"Each accident is different, and it is impossible to predict survivability based on seat location," said Mitchell Fox, a director at Flight Safety Foundation, a US-based nonprofit.

Viswashkumar Ramesh said his 11A seat was near an emergency exit on the London-bound Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner that crashed in Ahmedabad on Thursday, and he managed to walk out.

Sitting next to an exit door might help you survive an accident, but it won't always be 11A because aircraft can have dozens of different configurations.

"In this particular instance, because the passenger was sitting adjacent to the emergency exit, this was the safest seat on the day," said Ron Bartsch, Chairman at Sydney-based AvLaw Aviation Consulting.

"But it's not always 11A, it's just 11A on this configuration of the Boeing 787."

A 2007 Popular Mechanics study of crashes since 1971 found that passengers towards the back of the plane had better survival odds. Some experts suggest the wing section offers more stability.

"In this particular instance, because the passenger was sitting adjacent to the emergency exit, this was the safest seat on the day

Sitting next to an exit door, like Ramesh, allows you to be one of the first out of the plane, although some exits don't function after a crash. The opposite side of the plane was blocked by the wall of a building it crashed into, he said.

In January of last year, a panel missing several bolts blew off the side of a Boeing 737 MAX mid-flight, creating a gaping hole and damaging the adjacent seat. Fortunately, no one was seated there at the time, and the incident resulted in no fatalities.

Sitting by the aisle might offer you a speedier escape, but it increases the likelihood of being hit in the head by luggage falling out of the overhead bins - a much more common occurrence than major crashes.

Safety briefings

Paying attention to the safety briefing at the start of your flight - often dismissed as routine - is likely the best way to improve your chances of survival, experts say.

Disciplined compliance with cabin crew evacuation advice, including leaving bags behind, was a key factor in saving the lives of all 379 passengers and crew aboard a Japan Airlines flight in January last year.

The Airbus A350 aircraft had collided with a Coast Guard plane at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, killing five of the six crew members on the smaller aircraft. Safety briefings typically cover critical instructions such as how to fasten your seatbelt securely, adopt the correct brace position and plan your evacuation route.

A common tip is to count the number of rows between your seat and the nearest exit - vital knowledge if the cabin fills with smoke and visibility is low.

Despite disasters such as the Air India crash, plane designs have evolved to increase the likelihood of passengers walking away from a rare plane accident, Fox said.

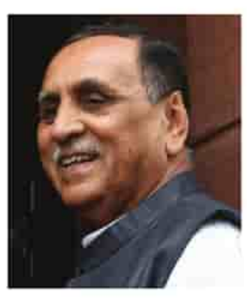
These include floor path lighting, fire detection and extinguishers, less flammable cabin materials and improved access to emergency exits.

"There have been remarkable advancements in airplane cabin design that have improved the survivability of accidents on or near the ground," Fox said. **Reuters**

Siddaramaiah condoles Rupani's passing

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday condoled the demise of former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, who was among those killed in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad and said he made notable contributions as a Rajya Sabha MP.

The crash occurred on Thursday afternoon when a Boeing 787 Dreamliner (AI 171), carrying 242 people, crashed into a medical college complex in Ahmedabad shortly after take-off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport.



Taking to the social media platform 'X', Siddaramaiah said, "Paying respects to Vijay Rupani, who was among the victims of the tragic air crash in Ahmedabad. He had served as Gujarat's Chief Minister and earlier made notable contributions as a Rajya Sabha MP."

Recalling his interactions with the former Gujarat CM, he said, "We had interacted on a few occasions while serving as chief ministers of our respective states. My condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time."

Senior BJP leader Rupani (68) was the chief minister of Gujarat from August 2016 to September 2021. He steered Gujarat through a critical post-Covid recovery phase. **PTI**

Fate of bike taxis: HC seeks reply from state, others

Bike taxi services likely to stop June 16 as HC maintains earlier ruling; next hearing set for June 24 without adjournments

The Karnataka High Court served notice to the State government and others regarding appeals by ANI Technologies (OLA) and Uber India Systems Private Limited. These appeals challenge a single judge's ruling that bike taxi aggregators cannot operate without State government guidelines under the Motor Vehicles Act.

During the hearing, Acting Chief Justice V Kameshwar Rao and Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar stated, "Issue notice to respondents returnable on June 24. It is made clear that appeal will be heard on the next date and no adjournments will not be sought."

The court declined to grant interim relief or prevent action against the appellants. The bench explained that such relief would have been possible if the government was in the process of creating rules, but not when they had decided against forming regulations.

The previous single judge order mandated the State government to

Bike taxi services are expected to stop from June 16 in the state

stop all bike taxi operations within six weeks, with an extension until June 15. Consequently, bike taxi services are expected to stop from June 16 in the State.

Senior Advocate Dhyan Chinnappa presented arguments

Uber and ANI Tech had challenged single-judge's ruling that bike taxis cannot operation without State govt guidelines under MV Act

about two-wheelers' use as transport vehicles, while Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty emphasised the need for proper policy. Uber's counsel referenced Central Government rules, noting Karnataka's lack of specific regulations.

The case originated in 2022 when Uber India Systems Pvt Ltd, ANI Technologies Private Limited, Roppen Transportation Services Pvt Ltd, and another party sought permission for motorcycle registration as transport vehicles. Initially, the court had prevented authorities from taking action against the petitioners.

On April 2, the court dismissed the petitions, citing a 2019 expert committee report on traffic and safety implications of bike taxis. The court instructed the state government to establish necessary rules within three months. –BMB

Dengue cases down as BBMP intensifies efforts

School awareness campaigns, strict inspections, and fines on violators help BBMP slash dengue cases by over 70% compared to last year's figures

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
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It seems the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities are not interested either t de appealing the BBMP authorities to take over its land that is allegedly encroached by Sri Muthyalamma Devi Temple Trust.

ADengue cases wreaked havoc in Bengaluru in July last year. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had reported 5,172 cases across its eight zones.

This time around, BBMP's Health Department appears to be tackling the issue head-on.

In less than two weeks, the department has reached out to 1,349 schools across the city, spreading awareness about the issue among more than 21K students and educating nearly 15K teachers in spotting and clearing dengue mosquito breeding sites.

"We started dengue awareness sessions in government and private schools across the city on June 2. Our sessions were aimed at sensitising students about the virus and educating them about the mosquito breeding cycle. We informed them how mosquitoes require stagnant water to breed, and thus, they should always get rid of stagnant water around their homes, including from flower pots. Teachers were trained to spot breeding sites in and around the school premises and clear these spots," said an official from BBMP's Health Department.

Officials say many such efforts have been taken up this year so far, and the impact is visible. In May 2024, as many as 782 dengue cases were reported from all eight zones under BBMP limit. However, only

The number of dengue cases has been much lower this year, even though Bengaluru has experienced more rainy days compared to 2024

"We informed them how mosquitoes require stagnant water to breed, and thus, they should always get rid of stagnant water around their homes, including from flower pots

–BBMP Health Department official

299 dengue cases were reported in May this year. Similarly, while 1,804 cases were reported in June last year, so far only 185 cases have been reported in June this year.

Cases were low even during January to April this year, when compared with last year's cases.

"The number of dengue cases has been much lower this year, even though Bengaluru has experienced more rainy days compared to 2024. We have also increased our reporting units. This proves that measures taken this year have been effective. However, since July is expected to have more cases, we are reviewing cases every day and mobilizing on-ground volunteers based on case load," said the official.

Notably, as many as 700 volunteers and 240 health inspectors were deployed recently by the Karnataka Health Minister to take up mosquito breeding control measures across all eight zones of BBMP.

The civic agency has also been imposing fines on commercial establishments, under-construction buildings, and residential apartments across the city that fail to prevent the breeding of dengue-causing mosquitoes on their premises.

According to the department, so far, more than Rs 36 lakh in penalties have been generated through a little over 3,500 notices issued to various establishments. The majority (a little over 450 notices) were given in Bengaluru East.

IN HIGH COURT

'Issue directive on mandatory reporting of foreigners'

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the State Government to issue an official directive to various institutions, including educational, medical, employers, NGOs, and law enforcement agencies, mandating them to report any interactions with foreign nationals to the Foreigners Registration Office (FRRO) in a specified format.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj stated "The Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, is directed to within 2 weeks from today i.e., on or before 18.06.20205 issue a Government Circular."

The directive requires immediate reporting of foreign national engagements to FRRO, verification of existing foreign nationals, regular status updates to authorities, with non-compliance resulting in legal consequences.

The court seeks documentation regarding institutions registered with FRRO or Bureau of Immigration, their reporting obligations, record-keeping practices, and instances of non-compliance with foreign national engagement protocols.

This directive follows DSG H Shanthi Bhushan's submission regarding foreign nationals entering India under various pretexts for education, medical treatment, or employment purposes.

The court noted that visa overstay by foreign nationals has become a pressing issue in India.

The court instructed the DSGI to work with the Bureau of Immigration to submit an affidavit containing comprehensive details about foreign nationals' entry, visa classifications, overstay cases, registration requirements, and verification processes.

The directive requires the Additional Chief Secretary of Home Affairs to submit an affidavit detailing registration status, current information of overstaying individuals, and data management practices.

The court asked for explanations on data gaps, proposed corrective measures, and details of overstaying foreign nationals facing legal action. The case began in 2015 with Syrian nationals seeking extensions. –BMB

Activists allege lack of seriousness in counselling efforts in city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she understood. However, according to the family, no counselling was arranged there either.

"We went to the CWC office in the city, but language was a major barrier. So, we travelled to Kolkata hoping things would be better there, but no one seemed to care. They told me to get my child counselled in our hometown instead," a family member of the victim told BM. "I explained that I feared people finding out about what happened and requested that the counselling be done in Kolkata itself, but they refused," the relative added.

"There is a lack of seriousness from the system. Several victims, especially Bengali-speaking children, continue to go without any psychological support," a source familiar with the case said.

Additionally, many survivors and their families have switched off their mobile phones, fearing exposure and social stigma if their identities are revealed. Sources also pointed out that in numerous POCSO cases, families are either pressured into silence or voluntarily withdraw complaints due to concerns over the victim's future. A significant number of these withdrawn cases involve migrant families, highlighting deeper systemic gaps in both rehabilitation and access to justice for child survivors.

"The CWC must ensure that victims are supported by people who can communicate with the children in a language they understand. If the committee fails to provide that, it's simply not acceptable," the former Chairperson of the Bengaluru District CWC told BM. "Earlier, we worked in association with language-based groups to bring in volunteers who could help counsel minor victims," he said, which according to the victims now doesn't seem to exist anymore.

Lead, cadmium, arsenic and more...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(COD) of the sample was found to be nearly 80,000mg/l, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) was recorded to be 50,000mg/l.

Water from BBMP's recycling plant in Chikkanagamangala recorded high COD, BOD, and other parameters, indicating organic pollution.

These details have been furnished by BBMP recently to the National Green Tribunal through a report. In the report, BBMP has underlined that the composition of leachate that is generated through segregated wet wastes of BBMP is related to some factors, including properties of waste, location, seasons, retention time in holding cell at composting plants, operation modes of transfer stations, etc.

The easiest and cheapest way to dispose of this huge quantity of leachate accumulated in different BBMP plants is through direct application to agricultural lands and forest lands. Leachate is a very good source of plant nutrients, says the civic agency in its report. It is rich in plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPRs), and application of the leachate enhances the growth of crops. Besides, BBMP can easily get rid of this problem by putting the leachate to a rightful cause, preventing water reservoirs from pollution and, more importantly, saving money, the civic agency has noted.

However, residents in the area have highlighted the issue of leachate generated from the plant on multiple occasions in the past.

NGT filed a suo motu case after residents of Chikkanagamangala, Doddanagamangala, and other villages around the plant staged a protest in August 2022 against pollution caused by leachate transportation. Locals had then alleged that the waste generated from the plant was being dumped in the open, leading to unbearable stench, and demanded that BBMP shut down the plant as it is a health hazard in the area.

The protest and the issues faced by the residents were highlighted by Bangalore Mirror through an article published on August 18, 2022. Following the article, the Principal bench of NGT registered a case in September of the same year and sent notices to seven government officials and agencies, including BBMP.

Residents in the area staged a protest in February this year, citing contamination of lakes and groundwater due to leachate seepage. Locals have also raised the issue of foul smell from the plant, leading to fly and mosquito menace in the area.

"The leachate sample analysis shows that the effluent is not meeting EPA standards, causing environmental and health hazards. Such high levels of heavy metals, if they enter surface water bodies, can contaminate groundwater, leading to health crises in the region. BBMP should either shut down the plant or ensure that the effluent is managed efficiently," said a resident of the area.

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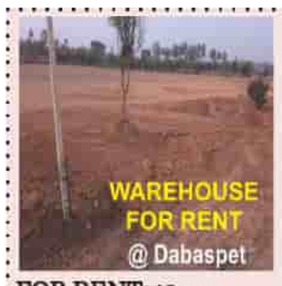

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I Sridevi D/O, Sidambaram R/o No 175/a 5th Main, Prakashnagar, Bengaluru - 560021 have changed my name to Sridevi Sidambaram.

I, Vrithi Lunia D/o Rakesh Lunia R/o #11/8,3rd Main Road, Mount Joy Extension Hanumanthanagar, B'luru-560019 have changed my name to Vrithi Mehta for all purposes

I, SALOME OSWIN DSOUZA D/O Dsouza Oswin Joseph aged about 25 years R/At No.126,2nd Floor, 3rd C Cross, 1st J Main Road,Kasturi Nagar, Banaswadi, B'luru-560043, have changed my name to SALOME ANN DSOUZA vide affidavit dtd:11/06/2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **R.CHETHAN** S/o S.R.RANGASWAMY permanent resident of #579, 1st cross, OTF Layout, SNR circle, Kolar-563101. I have changed my minor daughter name from **C.A.LITHIKSHA** (old Name) to **MAITHRI.C** (New Name) who is aged around 2 years for all the purposes. Same has been Sworn through vide affidavit Dated: 19/05/2025 before **H.Krishnegowda,** Advocate & Notary, Kolar.

I, Aarush S/o Arun Kumar R/o #1004 Block 5 B , Provident Sunworth Apts, venkatapur Kengeri B'lore-560060 have changed my name to Aarush Kumar.

I Syeda Batoole Azra D/O, Mir Raza Aga R/o No68, Sakeena Street, Allipura Chikkaballapur, Karnataka have changed my name to Syeda Bathulae Azra.

I Chandrashekhar Hosamani S/o Basappa S H R/o No. 53/12 (F-1) Sree Theertha Apartment 4th Main 18th Cross,Malleshwaram, B'luru-560055,Karnataka have changed my name to Chandrashekhar Hadapad for all purposes

I, YASHITA AGRAWAL W/O.Prakhar Bansal, R/at Villa 49, Phase 1, Adarsh Palm Meadows, Ramagondanahalli, Bengaluru-66, Have changed to YASHITA BANSAL. vide Affdt. Dtd. 12.06.2025 Sworn Before Notary Devaraja E, Bengaluru.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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KAILASH MANSAROVAR 13 DAYS JULY: 23 AUG: 22
BHUTAN 8 DAYS SEPT: 23 OCT: 8, 18, 25
NEPAL WITH MUKTINATH 8 DAYS SEPT: 9, 23 OCT: 7, 21 NOV: 4
MALAYSIA SINGAPORE/THAILAND* 7/11* DAYS JULY: 11 AUG: 2, SEPT: 10
BANGKOK PATTAYA 5 DAYS JULY: 18 AUG: 8, SEPT: 16
DUBAI 5 DAYS SEPT: 25
VIETNAM 8 DAYS JULY: 19, AUG: 18
BALI (INDONESIA) JULY 9 AUG: 27
SRI LANKA 7 DAYS SEPT: 10, 20 OCT: 5, 15, 25

HEALTH TIP: Jamun is an excellent good source of vitamin C and antioxidants, which both are necessary in helping your body to fight against the infections

Jamun's high antioxidant content makes it a great natural choice for promoting healthy skin

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Beard it with a grin

Are beards a hygiene risk? Here's what the evidence shows

Beards have long attracted suspicion, sometimes seen as stylish, sometimes as unsanitary. But how dirty are they, really?

Human skin is home to billions of microorganisms – mainly bacteria, but also fungi and viruses – and facial hair provides a unique environment for them to thrive. Research shows that beards, in particular, support a dense and diverse microbial population, which has fuelled a persistent belief that they are inherently unhygienic. The Washington Post recently reported that some toilets contain fewer germs than the average beard.

But are beards truly a hygiene risk? A closer look at the evidence reveals a nuanced picture.

The microbial population on skin varies by location and is influenced by factors such as temperature, pH, humidity and nutrient availability. Beards create a warm, often moist environment where food debris and oils can accumulate – ideal conditions for microbial growth.

These microbes thrive not just because of the warm, moist conditions beards provide, but also because of constant exposure to new contaminants and microbes, especially from hands that frequently touch surfaces and the face.

Concerns among scientists about beard hygiene date back over 50 years. Early studies showed that facial hair could retain bacteria and bacterial toxins even after washing. This led to the enduring idea that beards act as bacterial reservoirs and could pose an infection risk to others.

For healthcare workers, this has made beards a point of controversy, especially in hospitals where pathogen transmission is a concern. However, hospital-based research has shown mixed results. One study found that bearded healthcare workers had higher bacterial loads on their faces than clean-shaven colleagues.

> **Microbial population on skin varies by location and is influenced by factors such as temperature, pH, humidity and nutrient availability**

Another investigation, looking at whether it would be hygienic to evaluate dogs and humans in the same MRI scanner, found that most men's beards contained significantly more microbes than dog fur, including a greater presence of harmful bacteria. The researchers concluded: "Dogs are no risk to humans if they use the same MRI."

However, other studies have challenged the idea that beards increase infection risk. For example, one investigation found no significant difference in bacterial colonisation between bearded and clean-shaven healthcare workers.

The same study also reported that bearded doctors were less likely to carry Staphylococcus aureus, a major cause of hospital infections, and that there was no increase in infection rates among patients treated by bearded surgeons wearing surgical masks.

Beards can sometimes spread skin infections, such as impetigo — a contagious rash often caused by S aureus, which is commonly found in facial hair.

In rare cases, parasites like pubic lice – which usually live in the groin area – can also show up in beards, eyebrows or eyelashes, particularly in cases of poor hygiene or close contact with an infected person.

The case for good beard hygiene

Neglected beards can foster irritation, inflammation and infection. The skin beneath a beard – rich in blood vessels, nerve endings and immune cells – is highly sensitive to microbial and environmental stressors. When sebum, dead skin, food debris and pollutants accumulate, they can irritate the skin and provide fuel for fungal and bacterial growth.

Experts strongly recommend washing your beard and face every day. Doing so removes dirt, oils, allergens and dead skin, helping prevent microbial buildup.

Dermatologists also advise moisturising to prevent dryness, using a beard comb to clear debris, and trimming to control loose hairs and reduce shedding. These steps help maintain not only hygiene but also beard health and appearance.

So, are beards dirty? Like most things, it depends on how well you care for them. With daily hygiene and proper grooming, beards pose little risk and may even be healthier than we once thought.

(By Primrose Freestone, University of Leicester, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Maternal exposure to pollution linked to changes in foetal brain structures

Maternal exposure to pollution, particularly during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy, can affect specific brain structures of unborn babies in the womb, according to a study.

The study, published in The Lancet Planetary Health, showed that the changes were linked to brain imbalances, loss of motor coordination, and slow development.

"During mid to late gestation, the foetal brain enters a key phase of its development, making it particularly vulnerable to external factors such as pollution," Payam Dadvand, a researcher at Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) in Spain.

"As clinicians, we are now seeing compelling evidence that even in pregnancies that appear healthy by all conventional measures, factors such as air pollution can subtly affect foetal brain development," added Elisa Llurba and Lola Gómez-Roig, clinicians at the Hospital de Sant Pau and BCNatal-Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, respectively.

For the study, the researchers analysed data collected between 2018 and 2021 from 754 mother-foetus pairs.

A specialised ultrasound that allows the analysis of foetal brain shape and structures -- transvaginal neurosonography -- during the third trimester showed that prenatal exposure to nitrogen dioxide (NO), particulate matter (PM2.5), and black carbon led to an increase in the volume of various brain cavities that contain

cerebrospinal fluid.

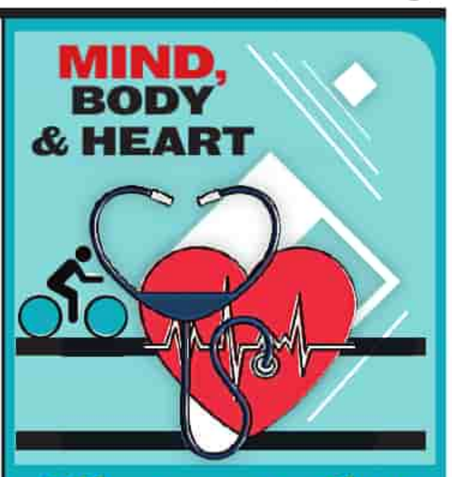
Specifically, direct associations were identified between exposure to these pollutants and increased volume of the lateral ventricles, located in each brain hemisphere, as well as an enlargement of the cisterna magna, a cavity located at the lower part of the brain.

An increase in the width of the cerebellar vermis -- the central part of the cerebellum, essential for balance and motor coordination -- was also detected.

The results also suggested less maturation of the brain. "The point is that these differences, although small at the individual level, are indeed relevant from a population perspective, as they inform us about how pollution affects the foetal brain and its vulnerability to environmental exposures," said Laura Gómez-Herrera, ISGlobal researcher.

The researchers emphasised the need for further studies to confirm the findings and stressed the need for increased awareness and education, both within the health community and across society.

-IANS



All you need to know about...

Ageing worries

Loneliness

About 54 per cent of elders associate ageing with negative feelings, with loneliness (47 per cent) being the most common emotion, according to a survey report released on Friday.

A study by HelpAge India, titled 'Understanding Intergenerational Dynamics & Perceptions on Ageing', has revealed gaps between the emotional needs of India's elderly and the perceptions of the youth, despite frequent family interactions.

Study

The study, released ahead of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, looked into urban middle and lower-middle-class households. It found that 54 per cent of elders associate ageing with negative feelings, with loneliness being the most prevalent emotion.

Depth of distress

Youth, while an empathetic 56 per cent associate elders with being "lonely" and 51 per cent with "wise", they often underestimate the depth of this distress.

"We are told the plan, not asked. That hurts more than staying silent," said an elder from Madurai during focus group discussions, reflecting a common sentiment of being sidelined despite living with family.

Daily interactions are common, with 66 per cent of elders and 61 per cent of youth reporting face-to-face contact, primarily at home through shared meals (71 per cent of youth, 72 per cent of elders) and family conversations (87 per cent of youth, 84 per cent of elders).

Digital world

Two-thirds find digital tools "too confusing," and 51 per cent fear making errors.

Youth, seen as primary digital teachers (54 per cent of children, 52 per cent of grandchildren), often grow frustrated, with 78 per cent believing elders are "disinterested" and 66 per cent thinking they "forget instructions." **-PTI**

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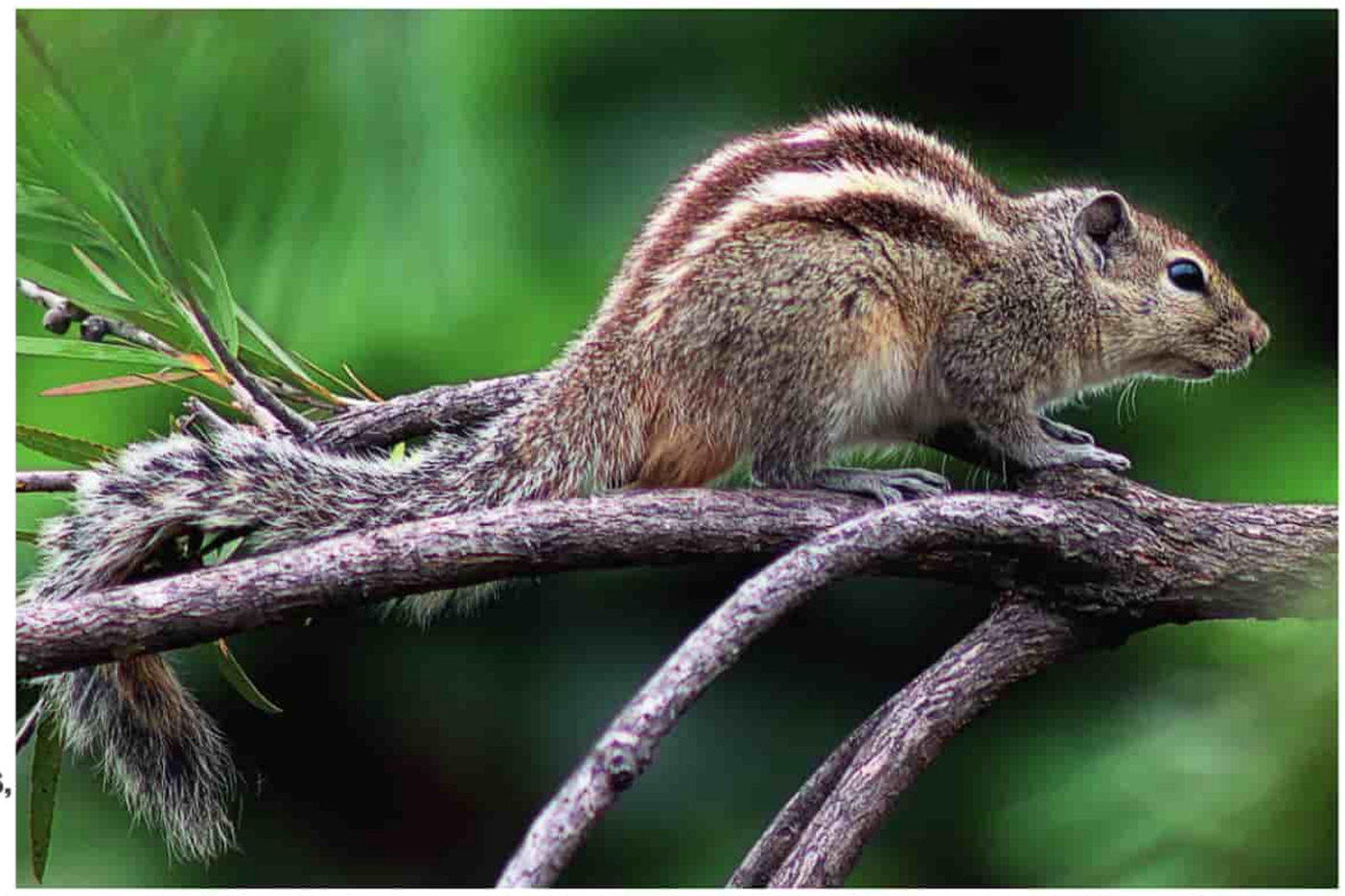
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

TAILS AND TENSION

Our reader shares a quiet yet telling moment between two Indian Palm Squirrels in their natural setting. One watches, the other climbs, the image seems to say, until stillness gives way to playful chase in nature's rhythm.



The picture was clicked by reader **Venkatalakshmi S, Veena Artist**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Paved drain turns perilous road, traps Mahadevapura in monsoon chaos

Unplanned road over stormwater drains floods low-lying Mahadevapura, endangering commuters and exposing gaps in Bluru's urban planning system

Mahadevapura residents are facing severe flooding due to the construction of a paved road over a stormwater drain that used to carry rainwater to a nearby lake. The road, originally built for the convenience of apartment dwellers, has now become a source of their troubles during the monsoon season.

A key stormwater drain, stretching around 450 to 600 feet and connecting Balagere Main Road to Marathahalli Main Road, has been filled in and converted into a rough, unpaved road. This drain, located in a low-lying area, once played a crucial role in directing excess rainwater to a nearby lake. Its conversion has led to frequent waterlogging and severe flooding during heavy rains, particularly impacting the daily commute.

Every day, nearly two lakh vehicles use this stretch to travel between Balagere and Whitefield. With the onset of monsoon, the poorly planned transformation of the drain into a road poses serious risks to commuters, both motorists and pedestrians.

Though a state-designated Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) road was proposed over three decades ago to connect Balagere to Toobarahalli and Kundalahalli Junction, the project remains stalled. In the past ten years, the area has seen a rapid boom in residential apartments. To address rising traffic, a temporary road was laid over the drain. However, it was never properly developed or maintained.

Mahadevapura faces severe flooding after a stormwater drain was illegally paved into a road, causing daily traffic chaos and safety hazards

In 2019, two residents from Tubarahalli challenged the conversion in the High Court, naming the Urban Development Department and BBMP as respondents. The matter was heard in 2020, but residents say the case outcome remains unclear.

Currently, the road is riddled with deep potholes and thick dust, making it a nightmare for daily users. Commuters complain of backaches from constant jolts and worry about accidents due to the uneven surface.

Shweta, a private-sector employee and local resident, voiced her frustration about the neglected condition of the road. Advocate Ravish emphasized that the piecemeal filling of the drain will be questioned in court, adding that the long-pending CDP road must be prioritised to prevent future disasters.

Residents continue to urge authorities for immediate intervention. **— BMB**

Residents wade through waist-high water as underpasses become impassable during relentless monsoon showers

DID YOU KNOW?

Fusarium graminearum is a fungus that causes Fusarium head blight, a disease devastating cereal crops like wheat, barley, maize, and rice. It leads to over $1 billion in crop losses annually in the U.S. by shrivelling grains, discolouring crop heads, and producing "vomitoxin" a harmful substance that causes vomiting in livestock and illness in humans. Two Chinese researchers, Yunqing Jian and Zunyong Liu, were charged by U.S. authorities with smuggling this fungus without proper permits. Liu allegedly carried small baggies of it in his backpack, claiming it was for research at the University of Michigan. Although the fungus is already present in parts of the U.S., transporting foreign strains requires strict documentation due to biosecurity risks. Scientists sometimes study foreign strains to understand their resistance to heat or pesticides. However, prosecutors question why the researchers' bypassed regulations. The case highlights the delicate balance between scientific research and safeguarding American agriculture. — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
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Can weight loss drugs like Ozempic affect male genitalia? A fact-check of the bizarre viral claim

A bizarre theory has taken over social media and Reddit forums in recent weeks: the claim that Ozempic, the diabetes and weight loss drug can increase penis size. What began as anecdotal posts on Reddit has now snowballed into viral speculation, with some users attributing significant "growth" in their genitals to the medication. But is there any truth to this? Let's unpack the incident, the science, and what medical experts have to say.

The Reddit Buzz: Where the theory began

The conversation seems to have started on Reddit, where several male users taking Ozempic or similar GLP-1 drugs shared personal experiences. One user wrote, "I recently measured myself down there and noticed I gained about one inch. Now I think people will say it was because of the fat loss. However, at the time I measured myself before (4 years ago), I was thinner. I also pressed during measurement before, and also this time. Has anyone else noticed this change in themselves?" Another Redditor added, "Yes. I gained 1.5 inches in length. No joke. Like you I obviously know how long I was before I got very fat. Then after about seven months on Tirzepatide in my case I gained 1.5 inches in length. Definitely not all from weight loss."

What do experts say?

There is no peer-reviewed research confirming a direct link between Ozempic and an actual increase in penis size. However, experts say any perceived changes are most likely due to weight loss—especially a reduction of fat around the pubic region, which can make more of the penis visibly exposed.

According to diabetes.co.uk, the average penis size in the UK increased from 5.17 inches to 5.63 inches between 2022 and 2024—an almost 10% rise. In Venezuela, a far more dramatic jump was reported: from 1.42 inches to 6.67 inches over the same period.

Dr Richard Viney, consultant urological surgeon at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, discussed these findings with diabetes.co.uk, saying: "Men's penises shorten as they get older (due to) increasing body fat and increasing prostate size drawing the penis back into the body. It is theoretically possible that new drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy, which are used to treat diabetes and obesity, respectively and can cause people to lose weight, could also be a factor. As men lose weight, their penises appear larger."

A broader trend has also caught researchers' attention. A 2023 study in the World Journal of Men's Health found the global average penis size increased by 24% over the past 30 years. Scientists remain uncertain about what's driving the change. Dr Michael Eisenberg, author of the study, told Stanford Medicine's Scope blog: "Any overall change in development is concerning. If we're seeing this fast of a change, it means that something powerful is happening to our bodies."

The story was originally published in TOI.

STORY OF A CRUSH

Throwback video of Deepika confessing a crush goes viral

Deepika Padukone, who made her Bollywood debut with Om Shanti Om, has been winning hearts ever since with her talent and beauty. As the actress gets ready to film her next big movie with Atlee, an old video has gone viral in which sees the actress spilling the beans about matters of the heart.

In a viral clip, Deepika sweetly admits to a crush on her co-star Arjun Rampal while shooting for the film. Her honest and charming confession has left fans smiling.

The throwback clip comes from a promotional interview conducted around the release of 'Om Shanti Om' in 2007. In the video, later shared by the fan page on Instagram, Deepika reveals, "I couldn't quite digest the fact that Arjun was doing this to me because he is one of the most good-looking men I have ever seen. And I have had this huge crush on him, so more than anything, during shooting, I would just keep looking at him."

Many fans were quick to comment on how adorable and down-to-earth she was during her early days in the industry.

'Om Shanti Om' is a 2007 film, directed by Farah Khan, starring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone in her debut role. The film is a romantic drama set across two time periods, 1970s and 2000s. It follows the story of a junior artist, Om, who is reborn to avenge the murder of his love, Shantipriya.

Known for its grand sets, catchy songs, and a mix of drama, romance, and comedy, the film was a major box office success.
–ETimes

Praise for best friend

As Disha Patani turned 33 on Friday, her best friend Mouni Roy wished her "bestmate" and thanked the actress for checking up on her every single day no matter which continent she is in.

Mouni took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures and clips featuring the two from their getaways and sleepovers. "Happiest birthday to my mystifying, electrifying, most beautiful little sister. My best mate and princepessa; love all characteristics and atoms that make you (sic)," Mouni said.

She added: "Thank you for bringing sunshine and sunnies into my life no matter what the weather is, for checking up on me every single day no matter which continent you are in and very casually being the greatest friend any girl can ask for."
–IANS

Success mantra

Aditya Roy Kapur, who is gearing up for the release of "Metro…In Dino" hopes the audiences connect emotionally with the stories of the upcoming film and see parts of their own lives reflected in them. The actor says if people relate to the film and enjoy it, that will naturally lead to success of the movie.

Asked what expectations he has for the upcoming film, Aditya told IANS: "Honestly, anytime you make a movie, you make it with the hope that everyone likes it and loves it. So, I mean, I don't try to think too much about the outcome."

"But obviously, the objective is for people to connect with it." The actor added: "Hopefully, they, you know, connect with the stories. I think the beauty of this one is that everyone will have something that they connect with one of the stories, you know..."
–IANS

2 roles: Oscar for one, brickbats for the other

Actress Keira Knightley recalled a "confusing" time when she was feted with an Oscar nomination for one film, and criticized as a "terrible actress" for another. In an interview with Vanity Fair, Knightley reminisced about receiving an Oscar nomination in 2006 for her performance in Pride & Prejudice. However, at the same time, she was being criticized for her performance in Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest.

"Yes, it was pretty big for my career. If people will come up to me, it'll be about that one," she said about portraying the Jane Austen-penned heroine.

The actress, whose breakthrough came when she played a footballer in Bend It Like Beckham in 2002, added: "Pirates of the Caribbean had already come out, but I think in the public consciousness, I was seen as a terrible actress." Amid critiques of her performance in the second Pirates franchise, Knightley recalled a switch in public opinion on her acting abilities. "But I had this big success with Pirates. And I think this was the first one that was a phenomenally big success, but was also critically acclaimed. So I remember it coming out maybe the same year, maybe around the same time as Pirates 2. And I got the worst reviews ever for that, and then also being nominated for an Oscar at the same time—it was, in my 21-year-old head, quite confusing."
–IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Trailer unveiled

The much-awaited movie Thimmana Mottegalu is set to arrive in theaters on June 27. The movie's trailer was unveiled by veteran director P Seshadri in the presence of MLC Bojegowda, director Kodlu Ramakrishna, and other prominent personalities.

Rakshith Thirthahalli has written the script for and directed the movie that was screened at international film festivals. Its shooting was wrapped up in December 2022.

Speaking after unveiling the movie's trailer, Seshadri said he watched the movie at the Kolkata International Film Festival. "I appreciate director Rakshith Thirthahalli for selecting a good script that is apt for the current situation in society. The movie has turned out well. The problem with Sandalwood is the lack of control on the release of Kannada movies. Four to five Kannada movies are being released every Friday and the audiences are confused about which movie to select to watch along with their families," Seshadri said.

He said the audiences have been encouraging good movies all these years.

About lotus

The team of bilingual movie Padmagandhi is making arrangements to organise the audio launch of the movie shortly. The movie is being made in Kannada and Sanskrit and it is directed by actor-cum-director Suchendra Prasad. Padmagandhi is the sixth movie for Suchendra Prasad as a director.

A promotional programme of the movie was held at SRV Preview Theatre on Wednesday. The movie's team has made arrangements to screen six songs of the movie on the occasion.

SR Leela, a former MLC and a professor, elaborated on the title of the movie. "I know some people will have the doubt why a movie is made on lotus while there are many subjects available in society. According to me, lotus is one of the few flowers that have influence on great civilisations. Lotus has a special status in our country. We selected Padmagandhi as the title of this movie as it is apt as per the script. I am very happy with the cast and crew. The movie has turned out well," she said, adding that she got the idea of bankrolling a movie on lotus in 2016.

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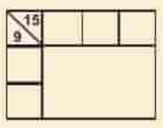
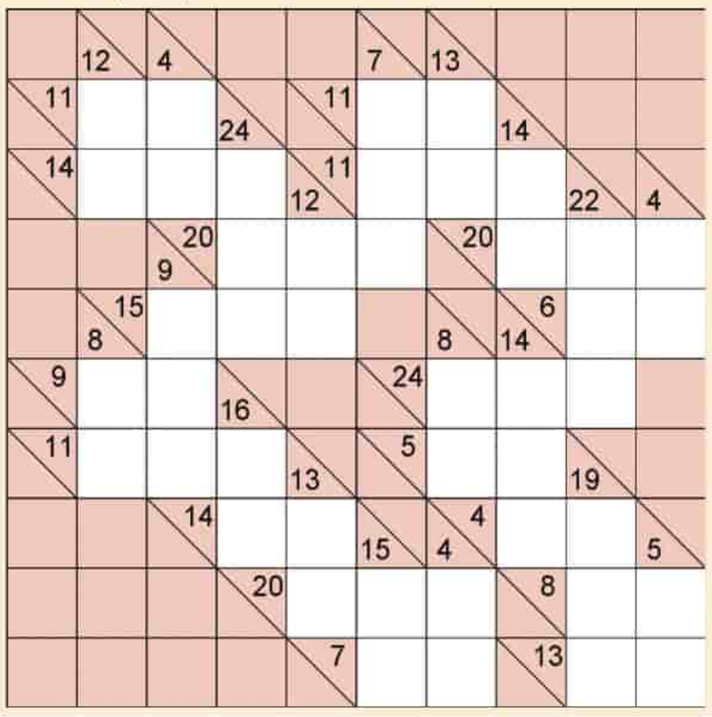
Kakuro

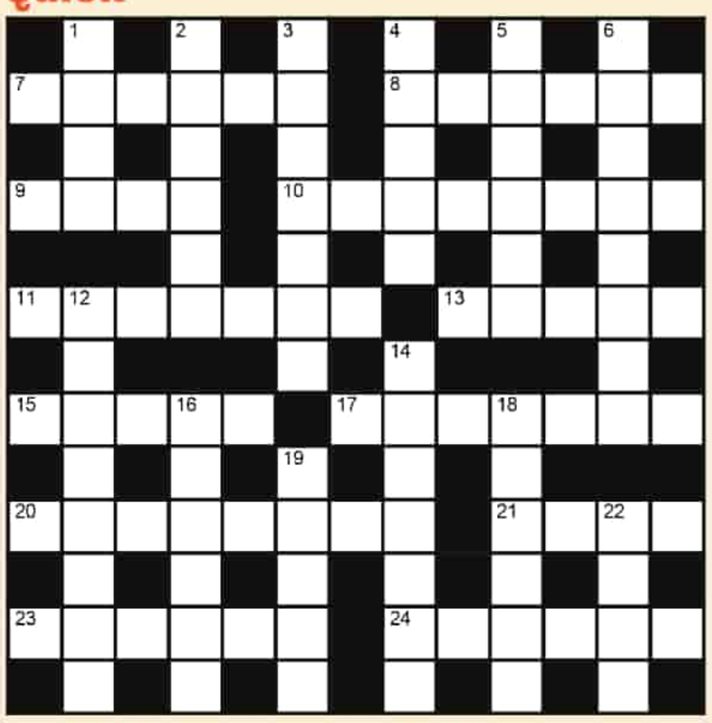
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Tufted beard (6)
8 Catchword or motto (6)
9 Ear-related (4)
10 Mentally disturbed (8)
11 Depending, banking on, trusting (7)
13 Steal; hit hard (5)
15 Take up as one's own (5)
17 Eight-sided figure (7)
20 Non-metrical hymn (8)
21 Curved structure (4)
23 Recess; niche (6)
24 Plant with showy, coloured flowers (6)

DOWN

1 Greatest number (4)
2 Short and strongly built (6)
3 Merging, blending or combining? (7)
4 Moneylending (5)
5 Until a later time? (3,3)
6 Accept difficulties etc. bravely? (4,2,2)
12 Not be late in getting finished? (3,5)
14 Karnataka's first Chief Minister (1,1,5)
16 An expression of deep feeling (6)
18 Queen of Crime ___ Christie (6)
19 More chilly or colder (5)
22 Genesis figure (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS H

OG MOE ZD QFEMAGQ ZD AEN NFETLSGQ LR NOG FHZA.

Linemaro

Are you looking for a shallow relationship?

Mindchow

It is not the want, but rather abundance that creates avarice

Joke of the day

A boy can learn a lot from a dog: Loyalty, obedience and the importance of turning three times before lying down

Loop

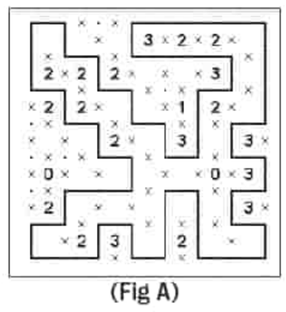
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

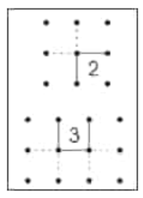
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

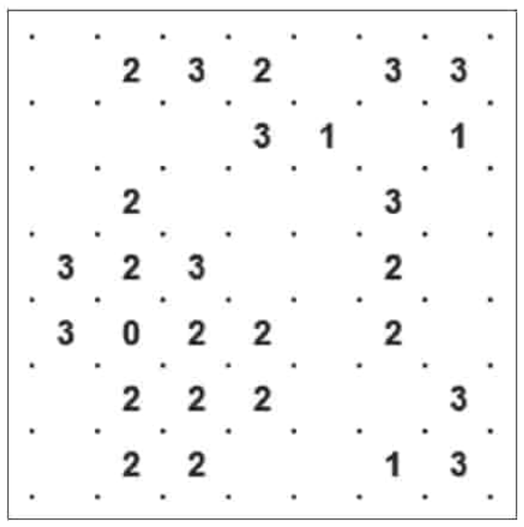
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



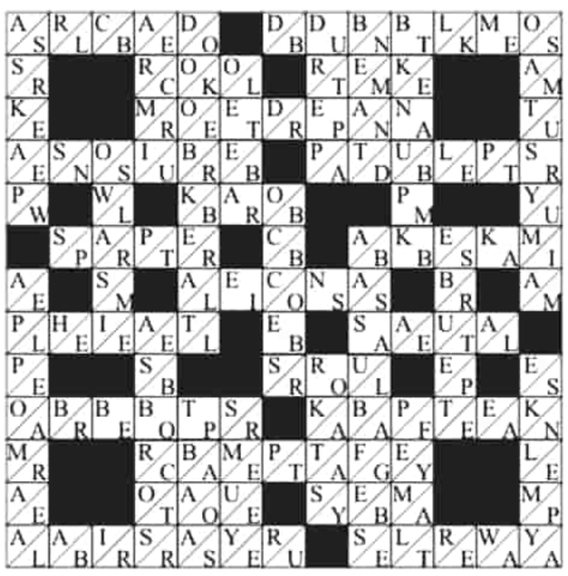
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



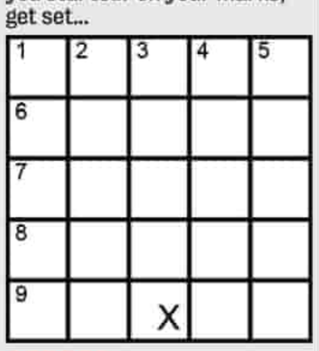
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

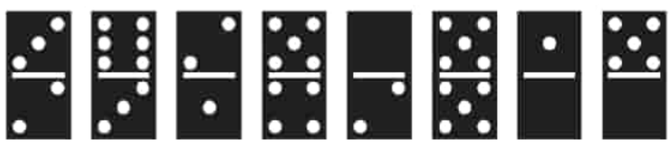
1 And as; 6 Manet;
7 Yew if; 8 Ligae;
9 BSE Ox

DOWN

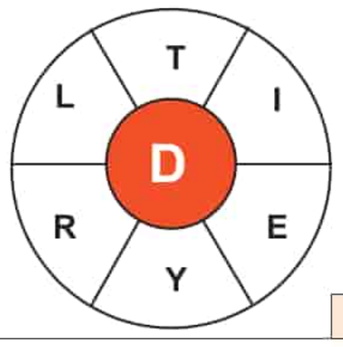
1 Bwana; 2 Mi Goa;
3 Fixed; 4 An lee;
5 St yes

Mensapuzzle

Which domino replaces the question mark to complete the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; 19 Good; 21 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7	6		1		8	2	
3	1		6		2		9	7
8				4				5
6			8		9			4
1				7				8
7	3		5		4		8	9
	4	8		2		5	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

1 5 8 9

Medium = 32

1 3 4 9

Hard = 19

2 4 6 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Door handle is larger. 2. Boy's arm is lower. 3. Bush is missing. 4. Fence is missing. 5. Window in door is lower. 6. Roof is different.

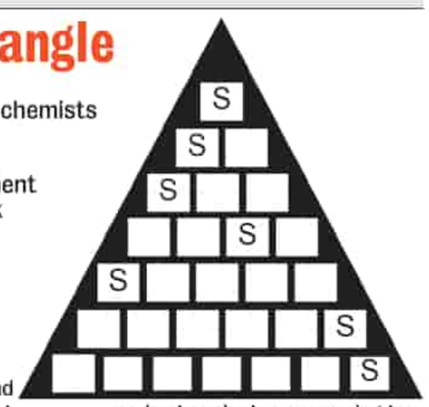
Riddler

In this teaser you are required to find a word relating to mathematics hiding in consecutive letters within each sentence. Have fun!

1. The governor gave the budget a cut everywhere possible.
2. It is rumoured that Capri men often marry Naples women.
3. He drove his new Mustang entirely too recklessly.
4. Groucho and Harpo were two of the Marx brothers.

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Selenium for the chemists
3 Filming site
4 Musical marking
5 Express amazement
6 Warehouse stack
7 Noises



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

IT IS YOU, POPEYE!
YEAH!
I DON'T LIKE YOU BEING INVISIBLE!
MY PARENTS ALWAYS TELL ME YOU'RE A NOTHING... DO YOU HAVE TO PROVE IT?
9-17
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

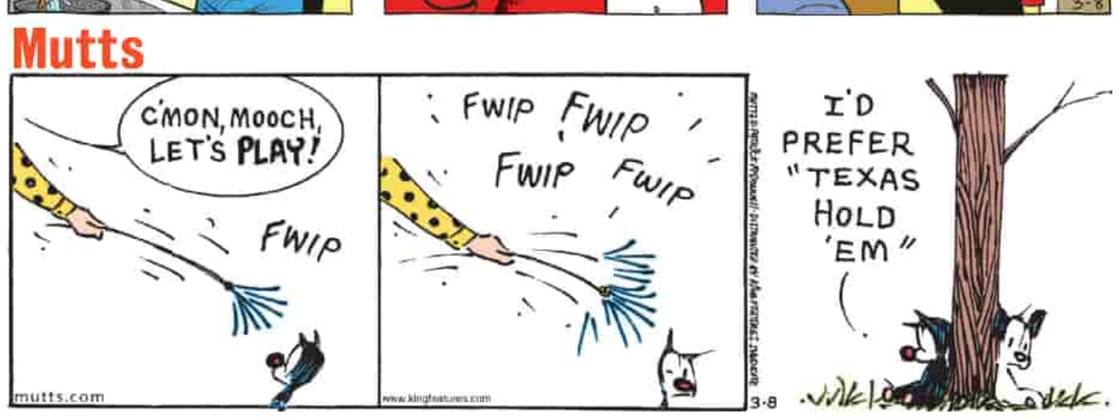
Hart of the city

JENNY IS JUST A FRIEND. A NEW ONE AT THAT.
LEE IS... LEE IS ALSO A FRIEND, BUT ONE I HAVE A CRUSH ON AND OCCASIONALLY HOLD HANDS WITH.
LISTEN, I'M NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND! I'M TOO YOUNG!
MY BEST FRIEND, THE CASANOVA.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

SO HOW DID YOUR PICKLEBALL MATCH GO?
THEY KILLED US!
I WAS JUST THERE TO THROW OUT THE OPENING BACK!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
3-8

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, destiny may favor you, bringing success more effortlessly. A visit to a religious place may offer peace of mind. You might spend time exploring intellectual or occult knowledge. Students are likely to perform well. Singles may find a suitable match, and lovebirds could make significant decisions regarding marriage.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may be busy with work today. With the support of your strong network, you can effectively implement your plans. Your wisdom may help you gain profits from past investments. Romantic moments with your spouse may enhance domestic harmony. Lovebirds will enjoy quality time together.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Blessed by the Moon, you'll feel happy and relieved from last week's pressures. Your efforts may finally be recognized. With support from subordinates, you may resume previously postponed tasks. Financial gains in business may improve your overall financial condition.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today may feel low. You could face minor health issues and are advised to avoid new ventures or investments. Business activities might result in losses, so it's best to hold off on major financial decisions for now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today brings happiness and mental peace. You'll be focused and goal-oriented. Romantic time with your spouse may strengthen your bond. You may also find yourself busy with family or household matters.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may feel more energetic and enthusiastic today. Your work performance could impress seniors and potentially earn you a promotion. Positive news in legal matters may arrive. You'll likely manage your opponents and hidden rivals effectively.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may easily complete even complex tasks today, boosting your confidence. Gains from past investments are likely. However, avoid getting into unnecessary arguments, as they may waste your valuable time.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
The day may bring dissatisfaction or unhappiness. You may feel frustrated with your current situation. Avoid making hasty decisions and take special care of your parents' well-being. Patience is advised.

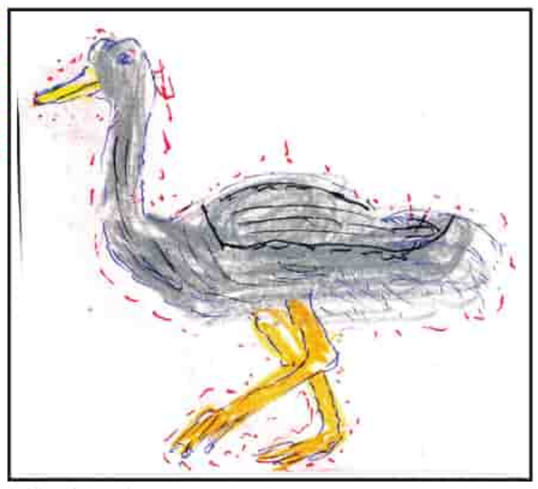
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You'll make swift decisions today, which may lead to day-to-day improvements. With support from colleagues, even difficult decisions may bring success. Property disputes among siblings may be resolved. Short trips are also possible.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Be mindful of your communication today, as blunt remarks may hurt those around you. Avoid spending on unnecessary items. While your mind may be racing, it's wise to slow down and make important decisions with calm and patience.

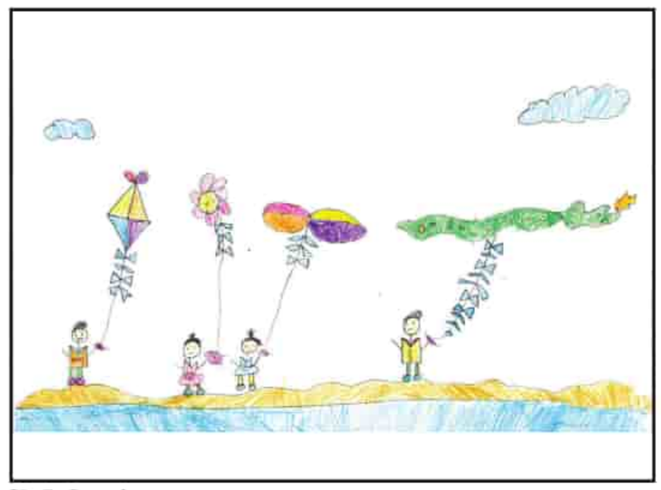
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, the Moon's blessings may lift recent disappointments. You'll enjoy balance in both professional and personal life. Your network may help you complete pending tasks and support the launch of new ventures—especially with help from siblings.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Work may keep you fully occupied today. Your patience and dedication will be tested, but staying focused can help you succeed. Rewards for your hard work may be on the way. Investments in fixed assets may also be on your mind.

KIDZONE



Ashiya, Bengaluru



Ritvik, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE dialy, dali, dlet, dire, dirty, dirty, dyer, edit, idle, idler, idly, lied, ride, tide, tidy, tied, tiled, tired, TIREDLY, tried, yield

RIDDLER
1. Acute (A CUT Everywhere),
2. Prime (CaPRI MEn),
3. Tangent (MusTANG ENTirely) &
4. Power (HarPO WERe)

SOLVE IN 1M
21*14/6-5
= 294/6-5
= 49-5 = 44

FAST FIVE

N	A	D	A	S
A	M	E	N	T
A	G	I	L	E
W	I	F	E	Y
A	O	X	E	S
B				

STRIKE OUT

A	R	C	E	D		B	L	U	B	B	L	E	S	
S		C	O	L		R	E	E					A	
K		R	O	E	D	E	A	N					T	
E	N	S	U	R	E		A	D	U	L	T	S		
W		B	R	O		M						U		
	P	A	T	E		A	B	E	A	M				
A	M		L	I	O	N	S		R		A			
P	H	I	A	L		E		S	A	U	L			
		B			S		O	U		P		E		
F	A	R	C	H		K	A	F	T	A	N			
C	A	N	T	I	C	L	E		A	R	C	H		
	E		A		I		R		G					
A	D	O	P	T		O	C	T	A	G	O	N		
	N			G			K			T				
R	E	L	Y	I	N	G		S	W	I	P	E		
	K		I		Y		O		U					
O	T	I	C		D	E	R	A	N	G	E	D		
S		O		L		U		R		L	O	G	A	N
G	O	A	T	E	E		S		F		F			
M		S		M		U								

QUICK

		N		A		Y		R		S		Y		
A	L		C	O	V	E		D	A	H	L	I	A	
R		H		I		D		T				A		
C	A	N	T	I	C	L	E		A	R	C	H		
	E		A		I		R		G					
A	D	O	P	T		O	C	T	A	G	O	N		
	N			G			K			T				
R	E	L	Y	I	N	G		S	W	I	P	E		
	K		I		Y		O		U					
O	T	I	C		D	E	R	A	N	G	E	D		
S		O		L		U		R		L	O	G	A	N
G	O	A	T	E	E		S		F		F			
M		S		M		U								

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Start on the left and move to the right, taking pairs of dominoes. The difference between the spot total of the two dominoes in each pair follows the sequence 4, 6, 8, 10.

QUOTE UNCODE
He who is drowned is not troubled by the rain.

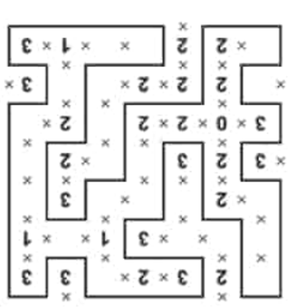
SUDOKU

2	8	9	4	3	7	6	5	1
4	7	6	9	1	5	8	2	3
3	1	5	6	8	2	4	9	7
8	9	3	1	4	6	2	7	5
1	5	4	2	7	3	9	6	8
6	2	7	8	5	9	3	1	4
7	3	2	5	6	4	1	8	9
9	4	8	7	2	1	5	3	6
5	6	1	3	9	8	7	4	2

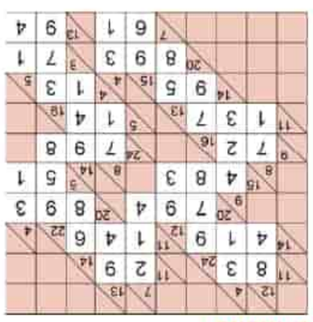
ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Se, Set, Rest, Stare, Crates, Rackets.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 - 9 + 8 x 1 = 4
Medium
4 x 9 - 3 - 1 = 32
Hard
8 x 4 + 6 / 2 = 19

LOOP



KAKURO



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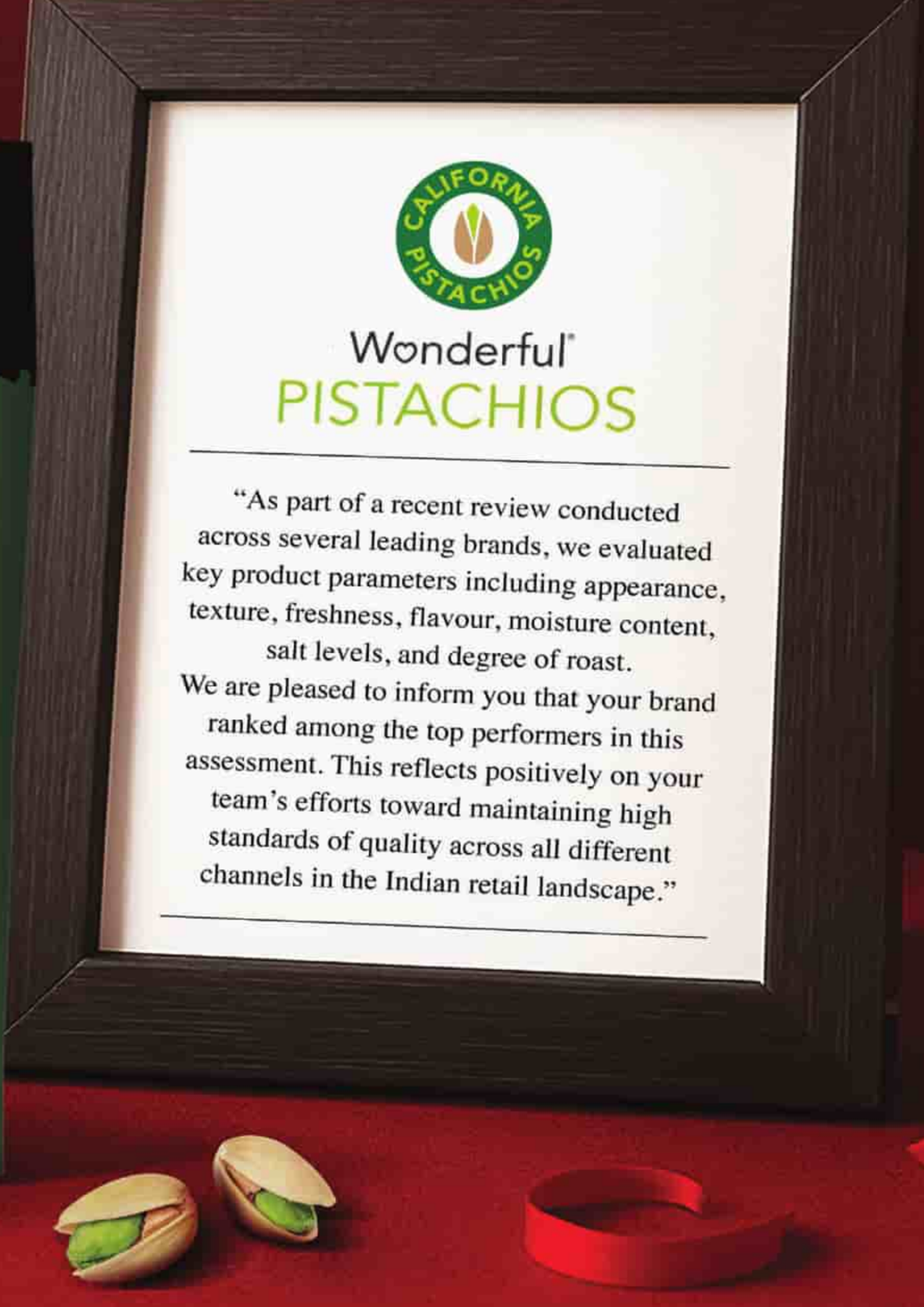
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